

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the July 20, 2005 Meeting

DATE: July 13, 2005

1. DORSEY DRIVE INTERCHANGE

On June 27th I spoke with Jody Jones, District Director of Caltrans District 3, regarding taking advantage of the appointment of Winder Bajwa as Nevada County's new Caltrans Project Manager and the development of the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), to refocus resources on Nevada County Transportation Commission's (NCTC) number one priority project, the Dorsey Drive Interchange. We discussed the possibility of constructing a partial interchange as a phased or staged approach, in the event that the 2006 STIP does not provide sufficient funding for full construction on the current schedule.

Ms. Jones indicated that she is willing to consider a phased construction as long as the phasing addresses three key issues:

1. Safety.
2. That the phases make sense to motorists utilizing the facility.
3. A "guaranteed" source of revenue with a reasonable timeframe that will complete construction of the entire project.

On June 28th I met with the Grass Valley City Council and shared Ms. Jones' comments with them and the City Council passed Resolution 05-48 supporting the construction of the Dorsey Drive Interchange (see correspondence item 2P). Also at the City Council meeting Jack Cramer, a local citizen, announced a grassroots campaign to encourage the State to fully fund "Dorsey Now".

2. GRASS VALLEY CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (GVCIP)

As stated in the attached letter from Brenda Schimpf, Caltrans District 3 Chief of Program Management, Caltrans has proposed a 50/50 partnership to fund the GVCIP. Bickett Engineering, Inc. (BEI) is working on completion of the Project Study Report (PSR) for Caltrans and is developing the following information to compare project alternatives:

- Operational level of service
- Right-of-way impacts
- Cost
- Access to adjacent properties
- Accommodating traffic

- Pedestrian facilities
- Construction phasing and schedule

Grant Johnson, of PRISM Engineering, will be preparing additional traffic operations data during the first two weeks of August.

3. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MITIGATION FEE PROGRAM UPDATE

Following the May 18, 2005 NCTC meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met and discussed comments from the Nevada County Contractors' Association regarding the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) update and staff is now working on revisions to the update.

4. AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY OVERVIEW

On June 16th NCTC staff facilitated an interagency consultation meeting with Caltrans, California Air Resources Board, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Environmental Protection Agency, and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. The purpose of the meeting was to review and approve NCTC's travel demand model assumptions, the projects that would be included in our regional air quality conformity analysis, the projects that are exempt from the regional air quality analysis, and to discuss the steps necessary to finalize the draft Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between these agencies regarding the conformity process in Nevada County.

In the coming months NCTC staff will be working with PRISM Engineering to complete the required traffic modeling, and to provide the necessary outputs from the model for western Nevada County to Caltrans for emissions modeling. NCTC staff will then coordinate with the local, state, and federal stakeholders in the preparation of a Draft Conformity Analysis for the Dorsey Drive Interchange. The conformity analysis must show that all regionally significant federal and non-federal transportation projects do not create new violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), increase the severity of NAAQS violations, or delay timely attainment. The transportation conformity analysis will need to be completed for the Dorsey Drive Interchange project by July 2006.

Concurrently, NCTC staff will continue to work with the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies to finalize the MOA that identifies the interagency consultation procedures and responsibilities as required for a federally designated non-attainment area. Once the MOA is finalized, it will be reviewed by legal counsel and presented to the Commission as an action item on a future agenda to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

5. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Nevada County Transportation Commission reviews, updates, and adopts the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four years. The RTP is the planning and funding document that identifies the regional transportation needs over the next twenty years for eastern and western Nevada County. The Plan is focused on addressing the current and future needs of all modes of transportation in Nevada County, including regional roadway improvements, state highways, transit, bicycle facilities, movement of goods, aeronautics, rail, intelligent transportation systems, and air quality. It also summarizes the financial assumptions and forecasts of transportation costs and the revenues that will be available.

The update of the RTP is currently underway. NCTC staff has been working to update the *Action Element* and *Financial Element* of the RTP. The *Action Element* identifies the needs of the different

components of the regional transportation system and identifies the actions to address those needs. The *Financial Element* summarizes the financial assumptions and forecasts the revenue necessary to implement the *Action Element*. It is anticipated that the *Draft 2005 Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan* will be completed towards the end of July. Once the Draft RTP is completed, it will then be made available for public review and comment in August. The Draft RTP will then be presented to the Commission at their September meeting and a public hearing will be held to provide an additional opportunity for review and comment. NCTC staff will then incorporate the comments and changes into the final report and it will be brought before the Commission for adoption.

On June 30th staff sent out a Notice of Preparation for the Supplemental Program Level Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the *2005 Nevada County Regional Transportation Plan* update to State and local agencies. NCTC staff anticipates the Draft Supplemental PEIR will be completed in early August and noticed that it is available for review and comment at that time.

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